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## Under a Bridge Downtown

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*Under a Bridge Downtown*

CHRIS JENSEN

I saw a man encircled by stuff: bottles, crates,  
oven racks, the rusted hub of a wheel. In his hands  
a pair of wooden drumsticks flashed with reckless precision  
as he drubbed the tubs, rang the glass, and splashed the racks  
into brilliant threads of sound like an ecstatic flag  
that waved against the roar of cars overhead.

Some walked past and offered nods of admiration,  
others dropped coins or bills, but whatever the cost  
to him or to us he kept on hammering those cast-off pieces,  
kept on making that truthful music, kept on plowing  
that forlorn ground into a field of sound  
until his wordless song grew like some mystical seed  
thrown beside the road

and I could almost hear him say, take up  
your own broken bits and do likewise.